Pearl Buck Ancestral Home 100 Years Old

Back there in November when I had a spell of writing about Pocabontas County and places up there, mention was made of Pearl Buck, the noted writer. This got a rise out of E. E. Ellison, Route I, Box 61, Ronceverte. He wrote as follows:



notice in one of your ar-Beckley Postand live at what is generally known as the old Sydenstrick-

er home place', three miles west of Ronceverte, on Route 63. Pearl Buck's father was born in the bouse we live in. The great-grandfather of Pearl Buck was David Sydenstricker. He was the first Sydenstricker who was owner of this farm, According to the best I can find out Pearl Buck's grandfather's name was Absalom. Also Pearl's father was Absalom Jr. Here on this farm, great-grandfa- Scmeone with a flair for inquiry David Sydenstricker lies has asked the wherefore of this bried according to the headstone at his grave, he died in the month d March, 1948. Pearl Buck's father had six brothers and two sisan sure Pearl visited this many times in her youngerder writ-En a referred to it in a not This manner. This commendation was built more than the first por-THE CALL PART Other rooms were as the family grew larger. I have it on good authority that Lie of the Sydenstricker boys were were Pres-Lyterians and one was a Metho-

Treat is a good letter incondend the that is chock full of Socal bistory, Invited to call at the property and when I get in DEEP BOCK of the Bills

sons can be sure they are going to have columnist company.

SAYING THAT the great-grandfather of Pearl Buck was David Sydenstricker, brings up the question of how many readers today, if any, can tell the names of their

great-grandfathers.

One of the most interesting latter day hobbies is that of tracing ticles in the back one's ancestry. Such are referred to often as "head hunters" Herald that you -people looking for the heads of made mention of the families from which they have Pearl Buck, My descended. Some times it proves wife and I own embarrassing, as witness the case of the newly rich man who got someone to trace down his family history and found out his great grandmother was an old maid! Tracing back the lineage of the first families of California is said to be very revealing!

> WHILE MIND IS up Greenbrier County way today, attention has been drawn to Old Greenbrier Church where those people called Baptists no longer have the pulpit in the center of the speaker's rostrum.

modern innovation in an old line Baptist meeting house. There in Old Greenbrier Church the pulpit is on one side of the rostrum and a lectern, or speaker's stand is on t'other. Lt was not ever thus. Question here dealt with today is why the pulpit is customarily in the center of the church rostrum and not why the Alderson congregation have a double-barrelled affair in their house of worship.

What is here said today is written analytically and not critically. Having the pulpit in the center of the rostrum and the Bible on it is the historical Protestant conception of what is the main thing in a service of worship. That pulpit in the center of the church with the Bible on it was the very spirit of the Reformation which was led by Martin Luther. Protestants hold

that the Bible is the Word of God and is only the rule of faith and practice by which Christians are to live and mold their character. With them the sermon—the teaching of the word—is the main part of the service of worship. There in front of the pulpit is placed the Communica Table. It is the symbol of Christian fellowship.

WHEN THE REFORMATION, led by Luther, broke out in Europe, the Bible took the place of the altar. In a Baptist Churchand there is no such thing as "the" Baptist Church since it is only a Baptist denominationthere is no altar. And no mourner's bench, either.

It is in the Roman Catholic Church that one finds the altar as the thing of primary significance. This is true because that church teaches that the worship of its followers centers upon the Mass. They believe that the bread and the wine are actually transformed into the body and blood of the Lord. Since this view is held by them, Catholics believe the sacrifice of Christ is renewed each time at their Mass, through the power conferred upon the Catholic priest.

Here is one point on which Catholics and Protestants are clearly poles apart with no compromise whatever. The point being made is that with the Catholic the altar is central and with Protestants it is the Bible that is central. Crosses are seldcm seen in a Baptist meeting house because these people hold the belief that the Bible, the central thing in their place of worship, contains all that the cross symbolizes. It is the historic position of Baptist churches that the commanding position of the pulpit places it in the center of the rostrum in the house of worship.

Again let it be stated, that today's offering is purely explanatory and not intended for argument-argument which tends to generate more heat than light!

WEST VIRGINIANS WHO HAVE MADE GOOD

Greenbrier-Born Pearl Buck Best Known For Good Earth

By WILLIAM E. MILLER

Feature Writer For The Bully Mail

West Virginia's best known number, Pearl Buck, was been Jume 26, 1862, the daughter of Absolute and Caroline Stuffing Systematrictors in Hillsberg, Greenbries countries

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PEARL BUCK : . Turns Out Her Ilth Novel

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WEST VIRGINIANS WHO HAVE MADE

Greenbrier-Born Pear Best Known For Good

By WILLIAM E. MILLER

Feature Writer For The Daily Mail

West Virginia's best known novelist, Pearl Buck, was born June 26, 1892, the daughter of Absalon and Caroline Stulting Sydenstricker in Hillsboro, Greenbrier county.

Her parents, who were Presbyterian missionaries, were spending hearts, and they longed to know a year in Europe and America, her better. after a long period of hardships EXCELLENT STUDENT in the far interior of China. So it The professor of freshman Eng-

Americans' search for God.

cape the anxieties of the hostili- called her mother, who was ill. ties that prevailed China at that She set herself to two tasks. The time. She learned to speak Chi- first was her care of Carie, the nese before English, but when it second, her study of the Chinese came time to read and write she language. studied English rather than the The month of May, 1917, Pearl difficult Chinese characters. Al- was married to John Lossing Buck, ways a household highlight was a native of New York state, who the arrival of the yearly order was in China as a young specialist from Montgomery - Ward, and it in agriculture. They went to live was the privilege of each child to in Nanksuchow, between Nanking order an item not to exceed \$1 for and Peking, and her first contrihis own.

METURNS HOME

to China, Pearl began her first to America to see medical special- er number of minor ones. putdished writing. Her mother had lists both for herself and her baby. Her artistes have

happened that she was born in lish soon found Pearl far sur-West Virginia, where her mother passed the others in her preparahad spent her own childhood. Her tion for work, and during her first father's forebears came to Amer- year two of her stories were pubica before the Revolutionary War, lished in the school newspaper and and her mother's from Holland the college annual. Her happiest and Germany in quest of religious days were spent in the library. She joined Kappa Delta sorority, Pearl Buck has just published was elected president of the Junher 17th novel, "Cry, the Be- ior class and the Franklin Literloved." her first story about India ary Society, kept busy tutoring and a vivid novel about three high school students and was a convenient baby-sitter for a small Her early childhood found her nephew and niece. After her gradback in China in the city of Chin- uation she taught for three kiang, on the Yangtse river. Most months in the psychology departof the time she lived in a small ment at her alma mater, but rebungalow on the top of a hill signed to return to China to care where her mother had tried to es- for Carie, as she affectionately

bution to the work at Nanksuchow was to start a Sunday School. Part four more children. She set It wasn't until she was nine of the time they were the only again into the routine of a b years old that the Sydenstrickers white people in the town. In life. Her father had retired returned to America, and Pearl March, 1919, in Nanking, she had came to make his honte with l and a reunion at her hirthplace her first child, a daughter, who She began the study and tranwith ber brother, Edwin who was was destined never to be well. Her tion of one of China's most Il years older and a college stu- book, "The Child Who Never mous novels, Shui Hu Chuan cent. The family spent a year Grew," published three years ago, volume comprising over here and Pearl attended the third is the experience with this child, pages when it was completed. grade in Lexington, Va. During When Carol was three months old, telling the adventures of 108 r the winter following their return Pearl closed her home and came jor characters with an even in



PEARL BUCK :



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the once-a-week children's page of the university. She surrounded university, and in the English newspaper, The herself with color and bloom, and of Nanking, and was Shanghai Mercury. Several times today her favorite colors are still ily on a manuscrip she won one of the week's prizes, deep apricot, brilliant blue and she thought was to and today she credits her old Chi- jade green. She made the attic novel. nese nurse, Wang Amah, who she into a study, and after her moth- Because of her claims knew more stories than er's death on Oct. 20, 1921, she health she came to A any woman in the world, as hav- wrote a record of her life. in 1929, and a cable ing the first direct literary influ- She kept busy writing, and in to China and back ence on her life. She attended the 1922-sent an article to the Atlantic here. It was the acc American Mission School for Chi- Monthly, it was accepted, and pub. first book. She went nese Girls, and during her 14th lished in the January, 1923, issue offices in New York year went to the Anglo -American under the title, "In China, Too." title to one more acc School in Kuling and decided to It was about the younger genera- publisher, and the become a poet. With her prize tion of Chinese, Her next piece, in May, 1930, after money she had bought a set of "Beauty in China," was published turned to Nanking. books about modern authors, by the editor of Forum in March by critics and the s which she read and annotated 1924, and the Nation printed her The same year she copiously. At the age of 17 she article on "The Chinese Student writing of her seco was sent to Shanghai to prepare Mind" in October that year.

When the family took their The time for another furlough nounced the manusc year's leave to return to America, came and Pearl and John came accepted with great they came through Russia, Germ- to America to consult a specialist was named "The Go any, France, Switzerland and Eng- about their child. Pearl entered came a Book-of-the-l land. Pearl attended summer Cornell university to study for her lection in March, 193 school in Switzerland to learn master's degree. When she many of her books to French and German. They came reached America, her luggage this distinction, and to Hillsboro and then to Lynch- contained the first section of the seller for 21 months. burg, Va., where Edwin, his wife story later published as her first year it won her the and daughter were living, and novel, "East Wind; West Wind." for Literature. Woman's college. She was fascin- magazine under the title, "A Chisted by so many American girls, nese Woman Speaks." During her Eighty-year-old Mr. it was a new experience. She did stay at Cornell she won the Laura er died at her home not know of the life of which the Messenger prize in history. girls talked so much, and her life | Before her waters to call

Her early childhood found her nophew and niece. After her gradback in China in the city of Chin- untion she taught for three kinng, on the Yangtse river. Most months in the psychology departof the time she lived in a small ment at her alma mater, but rebungalow on the top of a hill signed to return to China to care

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t had been on another planet. But who today is an occupational ther- favorite amor he soon found a place in their apist. Since then she has adopted China. The

Her articles more and mor significance of nificances of teaching, too. of Nanking, ar she thought

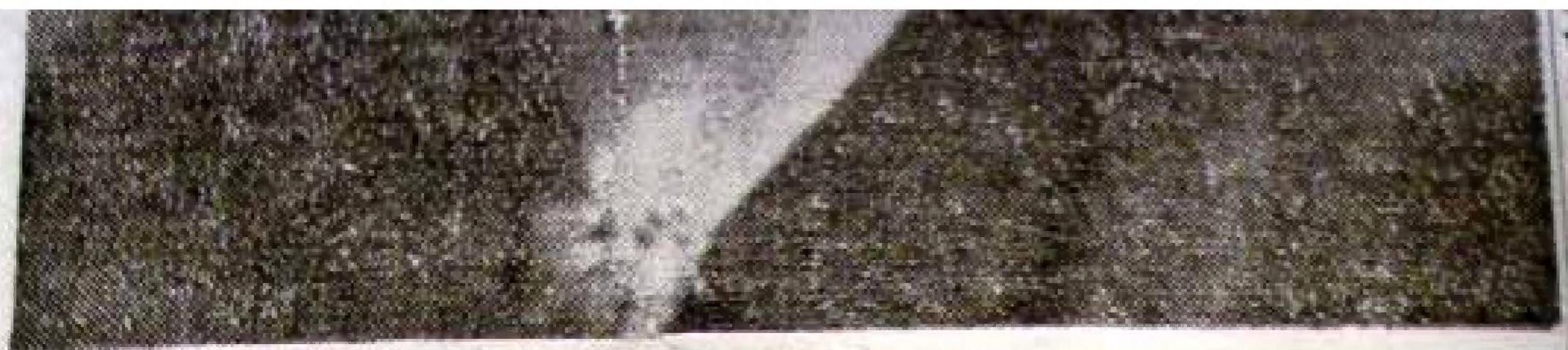
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PEARL BUCK: .. Turns Out Her 17th Novel

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Her articles began to appear as in more and more widely, linking the turned significance of China with the sigsband nificances of the world. She was ics at teaching, too, in a Chinese state Before the end of 1932, "Sons" and received he attic novel.

pub first book. She went to John Day's the pageant of China. issue offices in New York, changed the VISITS BIRTHPLACE sent it to New York.

The next autumn a cable anered came a Book-of-the-Month club seher lection in March, 1931, the first of she many of her books to be accorded cage this distinction, and was a best the seller for 21 months. The following first year it won her the Pulitzer Prize

When she returned to this coun-lives in Washingto try in 1932, she was greeted by a The presentation ne only again into the routine of a busy great wave of publicity. There was was a brilliant of n. In life. Her father had retired and a dinner in her honor at the Walhe had came to make his home with her. dorf-Astoria with a brilliant guest who she began the study and transla- list drawn from the New York litell. Her tion of one of China's most fa- erary world. When she spoke she and Pearl was es Never mous novels, Shui Hu Chuan, a won the hearts of even the most rs ago, volume comprising over 1200 cynical New York critics. One of child. pages when it was completed, and her long remembered pleasures of hs old, telling the adventures of 108 ma- that year was her meeting with came jor characters with an even larg- the late Will Rogers. Long before that the prize this meeting he had said of "The for all of her Good Earth"; "It is not only the emphasis on bio greatest book about a people ever single book, whi written but the best book of our deed. She wal generation."

unded university, and in the University was published, and it too, became containing a go of Nanking, and was writing stead- a best seller. In the spring of 1933, e still ily on a manuscript, one which a collection of short stories which the fact that o and she thought was to be her first she had written for many magazines was published and the ambi- walk backware moth- Because of her first child's tious translation begun nearly five she health she came to American again | years before appeared as "All Men rugs - and s in 1929, and a cable that had gone are Brothers." It stood as a monuid in to China and back reached her mental effort to disclose to the antic here. It was the acceptance of her eyes of the English-speaking world crown Prince.

Too." title to one more acceptable to the In June she was awarded an and then a di nera-publisher, and the book appeared honorary degree by Yale univer- Palace. Before lece, in May, 1930, after Pearl had re- sity, and returned to her alma was entertaine shed turned to Nanking. It was praised mater in Lynchburg to speak at an American Soci arch by critics and the sale was good. | alumnae dinner and to drive over her The same year she finished the Droop mountain to her old Amer- WVU HONORI ident writing of her second book, and ican home. She found her birth- "The Patrio place still noble in its propor- 1939, and she tions.

ough nounced the manuscript had been In June, 1933, she sailed for Eu- Phi Beta Kap ame accepted with great enthusiasm. It rope, the long way home to the celebration. I alist was named "The Good Earth", be- Far East. She had learned to drive the principal a car and was taking it to China guration of a n with her. She toured extensively dolph-Macon. in England, found Sweden to be sity presented like Ohio, Denmark pretty and tidy, orary degree Holland, flat. Italy beautiful and at the 1940 co France enchanting. She sailed from cises. She too

up Stockholm and ish publisher confi

She knew she my holm to accept the was worried about her sister's fourth born the afternoo sailed. Her younge is Mrs. J. B. Y

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Asia Chi- MORE BOOKS

her Eighty-year-old Mr. Sydenstrickaura er died at her home in 1931, the year his daughter wrote "Sons," she the sequel to "The Good Earth," nice, which she has often said is her ther-favorite among her books about pted China. The Theater Guild chose The Good Earth" for a dramatization, and it was produced on Broadway.

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She was back in America again June, 1934, and found that her latest book, "The Mother," published Howa while she was in China, was sell- 1942. ing well. When she arrived in America this time she had made up her mind to stay. She built a hours home near Perkasie, Pa., which her was in the country, for she has L

i no love for a city. Many times in her childhood days she had felt

lalien in China and was very conscious of being an American.

The following June 11 she was married for a second time to Richard J. Walsh, a native of Kansas. president of the John Day Publishing Co.. - I editor of Asia magazine. He was the man who had accepted her first book because it was so beautifully written and because it showed such promise. That November she won the Howells Medal, given only once in five years in recognition of the most distinguished work of American fiction published during that period. It has been awarded first to Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, and second to Willa Cather.

In January, 1936, she was elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and in that year too, "The Exile," the book about her mother, was published. "The Good Earth" was produced as a movie in 1937, starring Luise Rainer, and the picture was Irving Thalberg's last production. It helped to organize and maintain was during this year that she began to write her first novel with an American setting, titled, "This Proud Heart."

WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Press reported from Stockholm, the common understanding of the Sweden, "The 1938 Nobel Prize for human heart. Literature today was awarded to Pearl Buck, American author of The Good Earth and other novels dealing with China. She is the first American woman to be so honored."

Pearl, taken completely by surprise said at once, "That's rediculous, the report must be a mistake." She actually did not believe the news, or comment on it publicly, until her husband had called up Stockholm and had her Swedish publisher confirm it.

She knew she must go to Stock-

rich yellow rose has been give her name.

She has a hobby of sculpturing enjoys cooking, and always cook the Sunday dinner in her household as well as the Christmas dinner Another of her recent hobbies t the establishment of "Welcom House." a child welfare organiza tion offering family home care t Asian-American children, which she began in December, 1948. Two Welcome Homes have been estab lished one in Dublin, Pa., another in Lansdale, Pa.

In these homes, children live it a warm family atmosphere, and i is intended that care for these children will continue until they are of age, and will include a college education when it is found to be warranted. Many have been placed in adoptive homes. Known to al the children as "Gran," she keeps a helpful, guiding hand on all the activities of the homes which she along with her neighbors in Bucks county.

Pearl Buck is not a Chinese woman as so many people think. She is a West Virginian of whom we are extremely proud. Few modern writ-On Nov. 10, 1938, the Associated ers have done so much to further

At Rotary Meeting

RONCEVERTE, Sept. 14-Edg. Dickson, Second Creek farmer at authority of local history, preser ed a picture of the situation in th portion of the Greenbrier Valle in entertaining fellow Rotarians

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ish publisher confirm it.

She knew she must go to Stockholm to accept the award, but she was worried about the arrival of her sister's fourth child. It was born the afternoon before Pearl sailed. Her younger sister, Grace, is Mrs. J. B. Yankey, and now coun-lives in Washington, D. C.

d by a The presentation on Dec. 10, 1938, ere was was a brilliant ceremony. Trum-

ork lit- pets blared, curtains were drawn oke she and Pearl was escorted to her place later, served in the Confedera of honor by Dr. Per Halstrom, the Army. Dick Prry's mother w secretary of the Swedish Academy, an Edgar descendant and th When it came time to receive the property in West Ronceverte h with award, which seems the longest not changed hands. few minutes of her life, she learned A century ago there were nit before that the prize had been awarded grist mills and two woolen mil for all of her work with special on Second Creek. The prese the emphasis on biographies, not for a Nickell's Mill was a center of a sle ever single book, which delighted her in- tivities. Some other promine of our deed. She walked to the king, families around Ronceverte 1 made her curtsy, shook hands, years ago were Manns, Persinge "Sons" and received her citation and a box Erwins, Johnsons, Massies ar became containing a gold medal.

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Arch Edgar was 50 years old century ago, Dickson said, and w owner of the lands in and abo Ronceverte. He operated a m about where the home of R. Austin now stands. He called the "St. Lawrence Estate," and the St. Lawrence Ford was at the riffle back of Honaker's Store.

Arch Edgar had two sons wi

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Pearl Buck's grandfather live once in the E. E. Ellison home

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What made it all so difficult was the fact that on the return to her place on the platform she had to walk backwards over what was seemingly acres of deep Oriental rugs - and she didn't miss her seat! This was followed by a and then a dinner at the King's Palace. Before she left Sweden she Three different McClung fam res entertained by the Swedish-American Society.

HUNORED HER

1939, and she was again at Ran-on and farms land that has bee dolph-Macon to Join old friends and owned from pioneer days by th Ph Beta Kappas at their annual Dickson family. retination. Last year size was the principal speaker at the inauguration of a new president at Randolph-Macon. West Virginia university presented her with the honutary degree of Doctor of Letters. at the 1940 commencement exerthe took active leadership

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Her writing has continued uninterrupted. She spends the morning hours at her typewriter. She loves

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West Virginia's Pearl Buck Can't Purchase Ancestral Home

BY HAROLD LAMBERT (Division of Education— Counservation Commission)

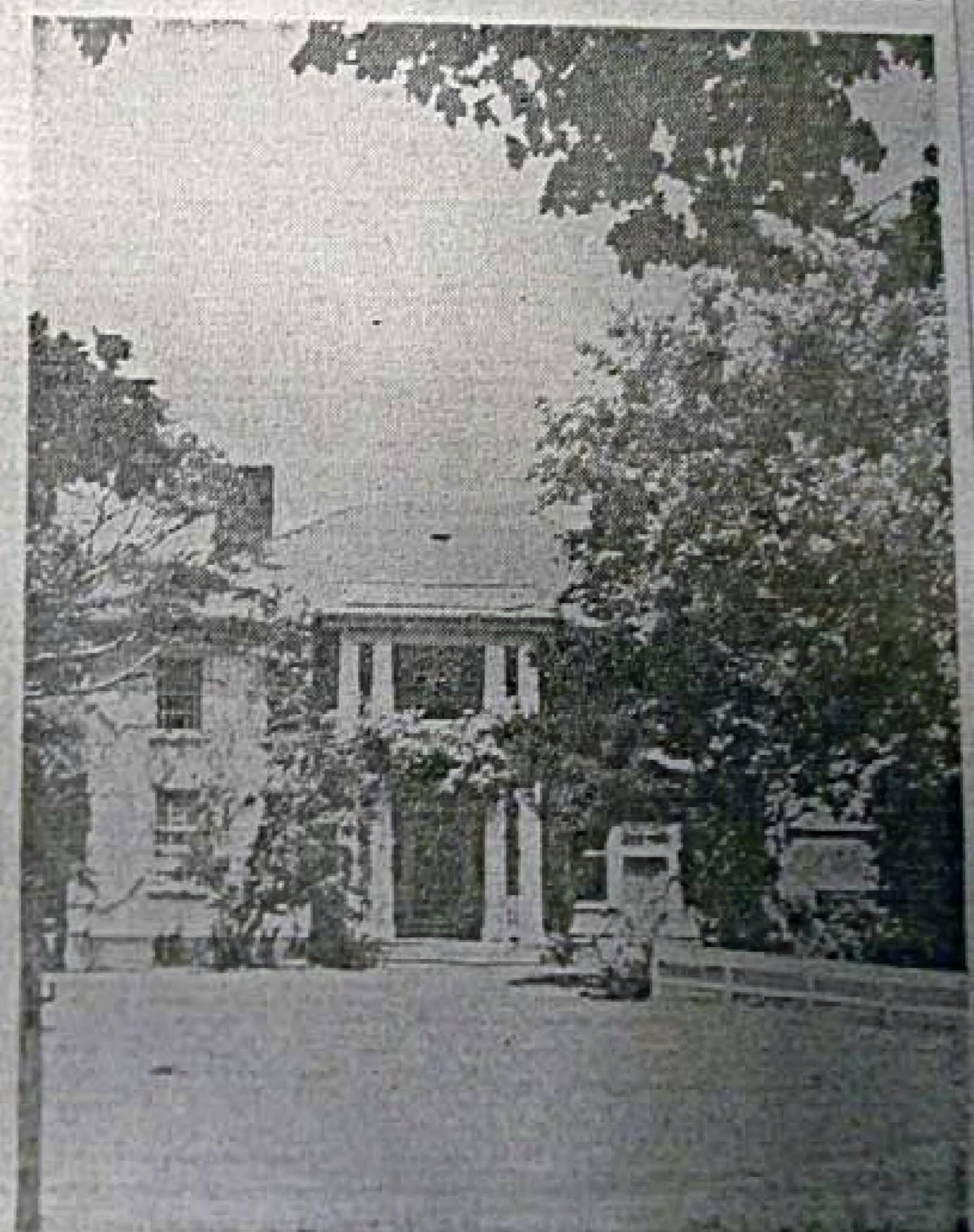
HULLSBORO — A 96-year-old frame house located on 'Main Street' here is the birthplace of West Virginia's most distinguished movelist.

The Stulting homestead, now the John Edgar house, was the setting for Fearl Buck's birth in 1892. At the time, her parents were on furiough from missionary service in China.

The house stands in perfect repair today, the home of the Edgars,
prosperous Pocahontas county
farmers and stockmen who make
their living from the 1100-acre
'clantation'. Broad level fields proclace magnificent West Virginia
train, and the pastures are ideal
for sheep and cattle. 'It's a fine
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The of the best

West Virginia's gift to modernday literature was the daughterof Absolom and Caroline Sydenarcher, transplanted Pocahontas;
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The Discount Rouse, as colonial tops attracture of West Virginia and of the imported Pearl Black to say of the construction, "the wood had been at their own lands and sold of the labor at they could not sold on the labor at they can be sold to be a sold to be a



"The Good Earth" and other best selling novels, is this house now owned by John Edgar, Hillsboro. Located in the wide lash farming section of the Greenbrier Valley, this homeplace is a part of an 1,100-acre plantation which is actively and successfully farmed today, Prari Ruck revisited the scene four years ago with an idea toward buying the farmstead—but was told that the Edgar's plantaed to keep it as their own. The house was built in 1838.

(Cinerralian Commission Phylo).

PLANT BUCK IN LEWISHURG

Possi Bristoker Buck, noted authorns and her humand it it Walsh, a provident New York publisher, were visitors in Lewisburg Tuesday. The present Mrs. Walsh, who first pair today, the home of the Edgars, prosperous Pocahontas county farmers and stockmen who make their living from the 1100-acre plantation. Broad level fields produce magnificent West Virginia grain, and the pastures are ideal for sheep and cattle. "It's a fine farm," John Edgar says with pride. "One of the best. ..."

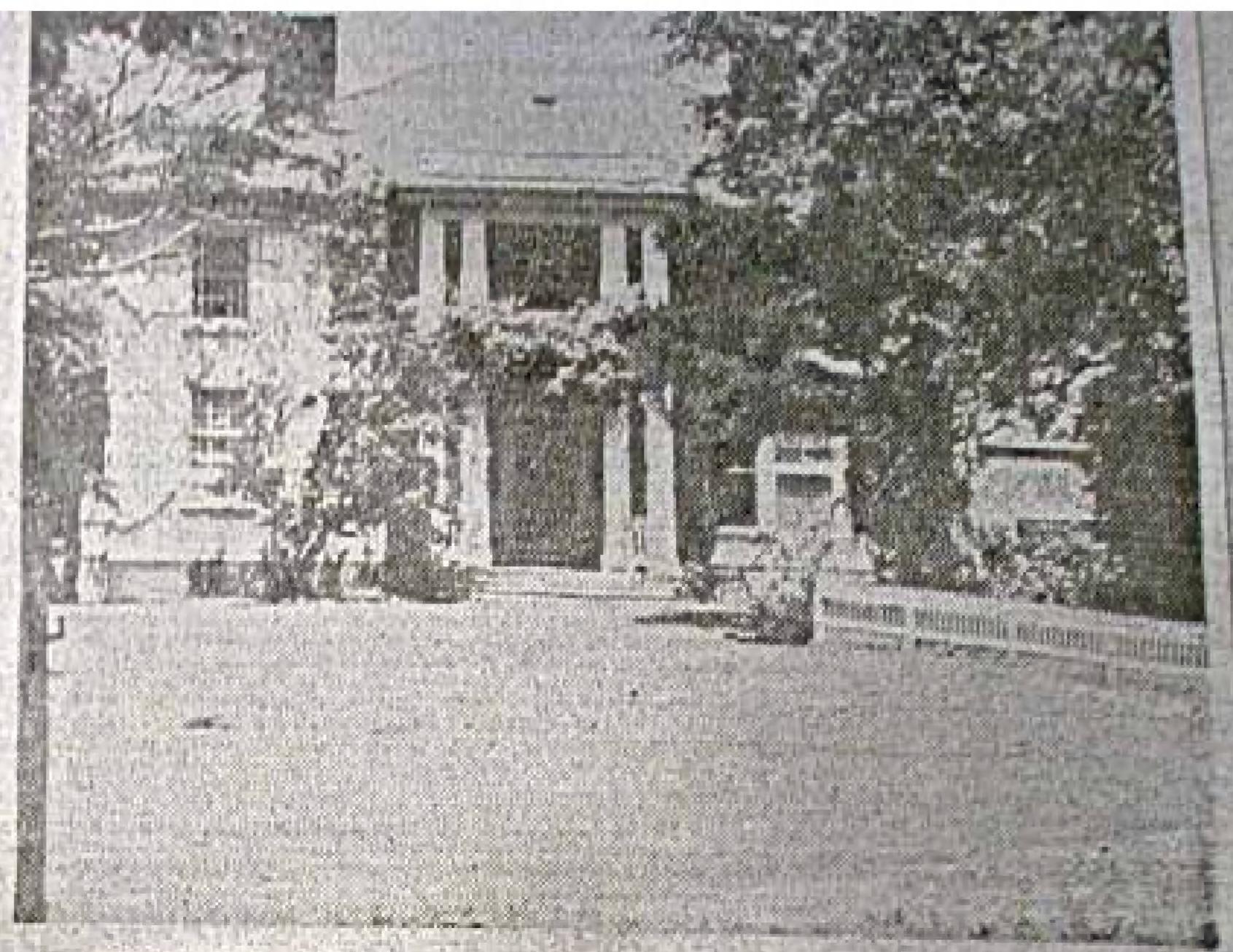
West Virginia's gift to modernday literature was the daughterof Absalom and Caroline Sydenstricker, transplanted Pocahontas. Countians who saw their mission in life in bringing Christianity to the heathen of the orient. As an infant, Pearl was taken back to China where she spent her girlhood years, "Her childhood was spent listening to her mother relate tales of her own girlhood in the beautiful hills of West Virginia," says one biographer.

The 12-room house, a colonial type structure of West Virginia hardwoods, inspired Pearl Buck to any of its construction, "the wood took from their own lands and such of the labor as they could not supply themselves they exchanged." She had reference to her Holland-born forebears who first ettled here in Hillsboro: The Stulwere frugal folks and they built a sturdy house; stone houses! bearby have not done nearly so with the years. Inside the beautiful walnut paneling is atil proudly displayed by John-Logar, who has filled the booksheet with his own volumesmostly the Southern type literature That is so popular in this section of the state. A full set of "Lee's Line Confederare love is prominently displayed is the ancient bookcase.

The Yankees just about ruined, as at one time," John Edgar says, "We had to rebuild everything." However, the house remained luter. Today it is brightly painted and in specially condition.

Front Back remained in China with her missionary parents until the was sent back to should Handalph-Muson College show to those in Lipschburg, where him was remined the Lipschburg, where him was remined then the chase. In this case security the same to some the Lipschburg that the continue of the Lipschburg than to some the Lipschburg than the continue that the continue to the lipschburg than the continue that the continue to the characters than the continue that the continue the continue to the continue that t

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BIRTHPLACE of Pearl Buck, internationally known author of "The Good Earth" and other best selling novels, is this house now owned by John Edgar, Hillsboro. Located in the wide lush farming section of the Greenbrier Valley, this homeplace is a part of an I,100-acre plantation which is actively and successfully farmed today, Pearl Buck revisited the scene four years ago with an idea toward buying the farmstead—but was told that the Edgar's planned to keep it as their own. The house was built in 1858.

(Conservation Commission Photo)

PEARL BUCK IN LEWISBURG

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, noted authoress, and her husband, R. J. Walsh, a prominent New York publisher, were visitors in Lewisburg Tuesday.

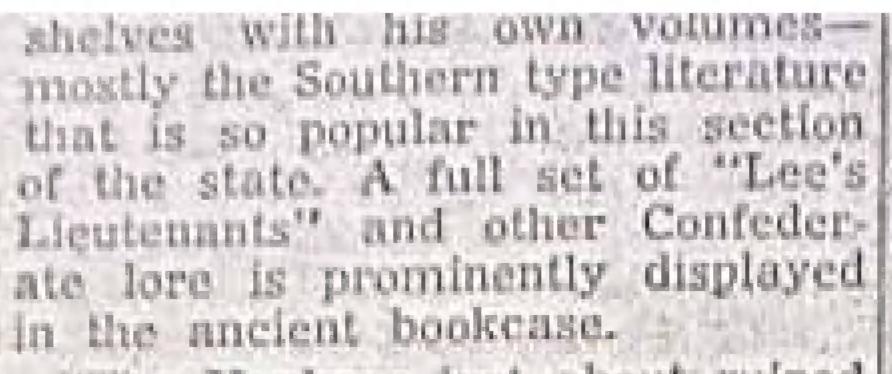
The present Mrs. Walsh, who first became famous with her best-selling book "The Good Earth," drove up to the county library in Lewisburg in a large automobile with a chauffeur, and with her husband went into the library. She didn't reveal her identity but asked a number of questions about the county and Lewisburg—and signed the register, "Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Walsh."

She was born in Hillsboro, her father being a Methodist minister at that time and later a missionary to China, where Mrs. Walsh found a fertile field for her literary talents.

Her marriage to Mr. Walsh I. her

Catalpas Blooming

As this to written the catalog freez at Upanin Downs are bloomand in all their glory. Same pumple that his catalog trees. That his catalog trees there



"The Yankees just about ruined, us at one time." John Edgar says. "We had to rebuild everything."

However, the house remained intact. Today it is brightly painted and in splendid condition.

Pearl Buck remained in China with her missionary parents until she was 17. Then she was sent back to attend Randolph-Macon College (for women) in Lynchburg, where she was president of her class. In 1914 she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree. Later she was to attend Cornell University (1926). Yale University, and the University of West Virginia.

Miss Buck (Sydenstricker) had her first literary works published

in the Shanghai Mercury, and Eng-1 lish language newspaper when she was 17. Later she taught at the University of Nanking and Chang Yang University.

In 1925, Pearl Buck's "A Chinese Woman Speaks" appeared in the magazine Asia. From then on her literary career was established. She won the Pulitzer prize for Dierature in 1933 for "The Good Earth." And in 1938 she was the first woman ever to receive the Nobel Award for Literature. Her

life in China has been-replete with adventure and excitement (once) she escaped capture by bandits by only a few hours).

Four years ago Pearl Buck re-Tisted Pochahontas County with her six children, four of whom are adopted. At that time she asked about purchasing the old Stulting portestead, but was told that the Edgar's planned to keep it as their

"The is a wonderful woman." John Edgar says - Tellis

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Her marriage to Mr. Walsh is her second.

Catalpas Blooming

As this is written the catalpa trees at Upson Downs are blooming in all their glory. Some people don't like catalpa trees. That is easy to understand because there-

are some people who ought to be in the asylum, as they used to say. Perhaps some of my older readers, if any, can remember the long, spikey growths that the catalpha tree produces a little later on. It was long ago told me that these were formerly called "Indian stogies." Word had it that when the Indians were short on tobacco they would gather these long hickies off the catalpa tree and dry them. After they were dried the Indian smoked them in place of smoking the weed, hence the designation of "Indian stogies."

At least we heard it out there in the country where I growed. Old folks used to describe a cigarette as "A fire at one end and a fool at the other."